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Summary

On this Issue

It has been difficult to create an issue devoted to the subject of sports that would attract the interest of readers precisely when everybody's attention is focused on Munich. However, it has been a beautiful opportunity for the architects to design all the Olympic buildings with practically no financial restrictions.
In the day-to-day routine in architects' offices things are quite different. To be sure, the construction of sports facilities is assuming increasing importance. The main reason for this is the national rivalry involved in athletic competitions, but there is emerging a trend toward individualized sports. No doubt we have here a new consumption wave following on that in the sphere of foods, clothing and motor-cars.
Most of the buildings presented here are intended for large-scale athletic events. This Issue seeks to give some idea of the problems which in this field will increasingly confront architects in the future.

Athletic training building in Magglingen

Max Schlup

(Pages 437–440)

The Swiss Federal School of Gymnastics and Athletics in Magglingen above the Lake of Biel was established in 1944, and it remains the sole athletics centre in Switzerland where trainers and coaches are trained and where athletes meet to get in condition for important international competitions.
The project got under way in October 1968 and work was completed in August 1970. The scope of the building program, which had to be laid out on a steeply sloping site, involved a number of difficulties. The end result was a complex on 7 levels closely integrated in the slope, which at no point gives rise to exaggerated height. Despite the construction difficulties, it has been possible to preserve many of the trees standing on the site.
The upper tract is clearly recessed from the entrance terrace which is accessible to the public; this upper tract accommodates the following premises: On the ground floor, the reception foyer, a polyvalent auditorium with a seating capacity of 200; on the 1st and 2nd floors, a library with periodical and publication service. On the 1st and 2nd levels of the lower tract are located the classrooms, assembly halls, exhibition rooms, auditoriums and conference rooms and administration offices. The 3rd and the 4th basement levels accommodate the training pool (10×25 m), the dressing-rooms, the training rooms, saunas, etc. Finally, the 5th basement level contains the technical installations.

The complex was planned on a module of 1.20×1.20 m. This entailed a structural grid of 7.20 × 14.40 m. Retaining walls, foundations, sanitary blocks and floors are of reinforced concrete. The remaining parts are of 37 steel.
The face is composed of tubular steel sections running up for two floors, between which there are inserted insulating-glass elements and parapets of Cor-Ten panels. Cor-Ten is a steel alloy (grade 52) whose surface becomes coated naturally with a protective layer of rust. After a few years, the initial brown colour changes into the purplish brown characteristic of Cor-Ten. No protective paint is required.

"Schachen" polyvalent hall in Aarau

Aeschbach + Felber

(Pages 441–443)

In Aarau there has been a need for this kind of polyvalent hall ever since the Forties. It was not possible to begin construction, however, until 1968.
In 1972 Aarau will be host to the Swiss Federal gymnastics championship competition, which, along with the all-Swiss rifle competition, is a sporting event of national significance.
However, this gymnastics meet was not the only factor leading to the building of this arena. The neighbouring school also needed gymnasium facilities. To this end, the large hall area can be subdivided into three standard gyms. The building is likewise suitable for conferences, meetings and exhibitions. Up to 1000 meals can be prepared in the kitchens installed on the basement level. The seating capacity is variable in accordance with the nature of the use to which the hall is put. The building is well integrated in the system of sports facilities available at Schachen, thanks to the master plan worked out by the architect Dieter Boller. A park zone ties in the other elements of the system (old moat, school complex). This generously dimensioned complex gives the municipality of Aarau an unexpected amount of park area.

Grandstands above the "Champel" stadium, Geneva

Guex + Kirchoff

(Pages 444–446)

With the aim of improving its sports facilities, the city decided to develop the sports grounds in the district known as "Le bout du monde".

The program comprised the following:

A main entrance with car parks
An 8-lane track 400 m in length
A covered grandstand with restaurant and cloakroom

The entrance to the stadium is indicated by installations which are kept very low in elevation so as not to disturb the levelness of the surrounding landscape.

The track has dimensions and an AKUS covering which enable it to qualify for all international events. The complex in addition is equipped with 4 illumination masts 45 meters high which, when fully installed, will be capable of furnishing illumination of 2000 Lux at ground level.

Again with a view to establishing harmony with the surroundings, the grandstand is designed so as not to block the panoramic view. Thus the restaurant, situated beneath the grandstand, is entirely glazed, which means that events can be followed from here. At basement level, there are the cloakrooms and the technical facilities. Nine slab-like concrete supports carry the prefab stands to which are affixed seats of plastic. Illumination of the 800-seat grandstand is effected by translucent domes of elongated shape alternating with the concrete elements carrying the roof.
Steel, concrete and glass, which are the sole materials employed, invest the complex with its unity despite the irregularity of the building volumes.

Sports and recreation centre in Wallisellen

Joseph Schütz

(Pages 447–449)

The main consideration here was not to disturb the attraction of the neighbourhood. This is why the buildings, restaurant, cloakrooms, flats, skating rink were located at the lowest point between the hill of Harnischbüel and the Hochrüti forest. This skilful emplacement of the buildings and green tracts made it possible in great measure to preserve the panoramic view. The hill of Harnischbüel is thus organized as a games and recreation area supplemented by lounging areas and paths for mothers and their children.
The restaurant, with a seating capacity of 176, is slightly elevated, and from here there is a fine view on to the palying fields and the rink. With its pyramidal roof it constitutes the main accent of the complex. The square rink (40 × 40 m) and the hockey rink (30 × 60 m) are situated side by side. The grandstands can accommodate 3000 people. The facilities serving the ice rinks, box offices, athletes' dressing-rooms, showers, referees' room and toilets are very flexibly organized with a view to special large-scale events. The dressing-rooms are of the self-service type with individual cubicles. Directly adjacent is a room reserved for children, which can also be occupied by school pupils in order to relieve pressure on the main dressing-room.
Above the main entrance are the quarters reserved for the caretaker and the manager of the restaurant. Moreover, there are four rooms with WC, shower and laundry for the staff. At the same level there are various utility rooms as well as the administration office. All of this is elevated and permits a good view of the hockey rink.
(Extract from a report drawn up on the occasion of the inauguration)

Indoor swimming-pool of the municipality of Rheine

Busso von Busse

(Pages 450–452)

The entrance lobby is entered via a vestibule; the visitor purchases his ticket and receives the key to his cubicle. Then the dressing-rooms are reached along the "shod" passageway. Beyond the dressing-room the visitor reaches the hygienic zone via the "barefoot" corridor, separated from the approaches of the pool by heated benches. From that point he can get to the lawns by way of a ramp. The swimming instructor can survey the entire hall from a central booth.
At basement level there is situated a compact technical tract extending over 350 sq. m. (18%) of the total surface of the building. This zone is protected by a watertight lining, the remaining surface is submerged when the water level is high.
The substructure, the skeleton, the pool are of reinforced concrete. The elevation is made up of prefab concrete elements. The ceiling and the roof structure are of pine and the cornice copings of Thyssen sheet-metal sections.
The heat furnished by the boilers (1.6 million We/h) is used to supply the showers, the heating of the pool and that of the various premises. The water is prepared in three filters renewing the water at a rate of 2.5/h in the main pool and of 1/h in the learners' pool. Biological purification is assured by means of a chlorine injection device. Operations are in great measure automatized. All operations are visualized on a special panel, which also signals any breakdowns that may occur.
In 1970 the plant was awarded the BDA Prize of the City of Münster.

Sports arena of the Middle East Technical University, Ankara

(Pages 453–455)

Aside from the functional requirements, the building was designed with the following factors in mind:

- Particular siting of the arena on the campus
- Connection between the arena, the stadium and the other athletic equipment
- Aesthetic expression especially of the roof structure, which is highly visible from above
- Silhouette of the building as seen from the entrance to the university

This large athletic arena can accomodate 1000 spectators. The large volume can be subdivided into two gymnasiums plus small premises. Spectators and athletes enter the building via separate accesses. The utility installations, cloakrooms and showers, located in the lower tract, are also used for events in the stadium. After different comparative studies were carried out, there was selected for this arena a folded-surface structure, carried by posts, with a thickness of 15 cm and a free span of 33 m. The covered area thus measures 33×50 m.
The arena receives sufficient natural daylight on the north and on the south sides. The artificial lighting is installed inside the roof structure; it throws the correct light on the athletes without dazzling them. The complex has artificial ventilation. Most of the structural elements are of untreated concrete; only a few vertical supporting elements are covered with travertine and constitute a unity with the face.

Polyvalent hall at Crissier

Group 61

(Pages 462–465)

An entire team, made up not only of architects and engineers but also of various specialists, the Cantonal gymnastics inspector, theatre people and, above all, the client represented by the Mayor and his municipal councillors took an active part in the conception of this complex, the financing of which presented grave problems.
The complex is made up of three parts: the gymnasium, the community rooms and the theatre. It is situated practically in the centre of the place and is the focus of an entire sports, cultural and educational complex.
The construction of the theatre was designed in view of the functional plurality that was desired; it can be used as a theatre, a ballroom, a convention hall and an exhibition room. An attempt has been made to meet these requirements by designing a highly mobile stage, a highly variable seating arrangement and by making it possible to combine the foyer and the auditorium. The stage, which can be opened to a width of 16 meters, is made up of 4 mobile parts. Under the direction of P. H. Werner, a great deal of attention has been devoted to acoustic problems, which have been resolved in a satisfactory manner at relatively low cost.
In short, this plant is an apparatus serving the municipality; all monumentality, modernism and frills have been dispensed with.